

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 4, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1330

Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani
(Coauthor: Senator Wyland)

February 18, 2011

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to graduation requirements.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1330, as amended, Furutani. Graduation requirements: career technical education.

Existing law prohibits a pupil from receiving a diploma of graduation from high school unless he or she completes specified requirements, including, but not limited to, completing one course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.

This bill, commencing with the 2012–13 school year and until July 1, 2017, would add completion of a course in career technical education, as defined, as an alternative to the requirement that a pupil complete a course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.

The bill would require the governing board of a school district or county office of education that elects to offer career technical education courses pursuant to these provisions to provide parents, teachers, pupils, and the public with specified information relating to the impact that offering these courses would have on graduation requirements and admission requirements to the California State University and the University of California.

The bill would also require the State Department of Education to report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2016, the number of pupils who took a career technical education course in order to fulfill the graduation course requirement.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) The foundational principle of the Education Code is that all
4 pupils shall have access to equitable educational opportunities and
5 resources.

6 (2) The future of the state is dependent upon minimizing, if not
7 entirely alleviating, the inequities in our public schools so that all
8 pupils will have more equitable opportunities to learn skills needed
9 for entry into the workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational
10 goals, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the state.

11 (3) Current law specifies the courses a pupil must complete to
12 graduate from high school. However, too many pupils are dropping
13 out of high school or graduating without the necessary foundation
14 to succeed in the workplace or in postsecondary education.

15 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that:

16 (1) By specifying the types of coursework that pupils must
17 complete in order to graduate, pupils will have world class skills
18 and the workforce of the state will be competitive in the global
19 economy.

20 (2) Pupils will be prepared to meet the academic and technical
21 skills challenges of the high school curriculum and that they will
22 take advantage of the range of course options available to them.

23 (3) In order to increase the rigor of the coursework and to ensure
24 that pupils are prepared to meet the demands of the 21st century,
25 the courses required for high school graduation must be aligned
26 with the standards and frameworks that are adopted by the State
27 Board of Education.

28 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to
29 read:

1 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
2 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
3 graduation from high school:

4 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
5 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
6 otherwise specified:

7 (A) Three courses in English.

8 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

9 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
10 sciences.

11 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
12 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
13 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
14 one-semester course in economics.

15 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,
16 or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical
17 education.

18 (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
19 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
20 deemed a course in foreign language.

21 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
22 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
23 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical
24 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state
25 board.

26 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school
27 district that currently does not offer career technical education
28 courses to start new career technical education programs for
29 purposes of this section.

30 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to
31 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement
32 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school
33 district or county office of education, prior to offering that
34 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the
35 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of
36 all of the following:

37 (I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill
38 the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.

39 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,
40 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of

1 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the
2 California State University and the University of California, and
3 whether the career technical education courses to be offered
4 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those
5 eligibility requirements.

6 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation
7 requirements of the school district or county office of education,
8 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California
9 State University and the University of California.

10 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
11 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

12 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
13 board of the school district.

14 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
15 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
16 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
17 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
18 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
19 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
20 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
21 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
22 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and
23 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
24 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

25 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt
26 a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements
27 adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition
28 to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section
29 if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the
30 district from another school district or between high schools within
31 the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is
32 reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time
33 to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for
34 foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall
35 notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant
36 to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the
37 right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the
38 requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain
39 admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall

1 provide information about transfer opportunities available through
2 the California Community Colleges.

3 *(d) On or before January 1, 2016, the department shall report*
4 *to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature the number*
5 *of pupils who took a career technical education course in order*
6 *to fulfill the requirements specified in subparagraph (E) of*
7 *paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). A school district may report the*
8 *number of career technical education courses taken by pupils to*
9 *fulfill the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph*
10 *(1) of subdivision (a) through the California Longitudinal Pupil*
11 *Achievement Data System.*

12 ~~(d)~~

13 *(e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2017, and,*
14 *as of January 1, 2018, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*
15 *that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2018, deletes or*
16 *extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

17 SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to
18 read:

19 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
20 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
21 graduation from high school:

22 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
23 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
24 otherwise specified:

25 (A) Three courses in English.

26 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

27 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
28 sciences.

29 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
30 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
31 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
32 one-semester course in economics.

33 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.
34 For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
35 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
36 deemed a course in foreign language.

37 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
38 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

39 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
40 board of the school district.

(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other outside school experience, career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the district from another school district or between high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

(d) This section shall become operative July 1, 2017.